(c) the special steps taken by Government of safeguard the interests of local people effected by extraction of the gold; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has reported occurrences of gold around Sonadehi, Kumarkatta-Parvelli-Gurpher, Sheetalpur-Bheldapani-Bazhar-Chancher and Puro-Michgaon Blocks in Baster region of Chhattisgarh. The investigations carried out so far have only indicated presence of low-grade gold ore, which may not be economically viable to mine.

(c) and (d) As no mining activity has been initiated, the question does not arise.

Increased activities of Pakistani and Chinese Armies on Border

†4393. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides the activities of the Pakistani Army, activities of the Chinese Army have also increased on the Indian Border after the bitterness crept in the Indo-Pak relations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are no reports to indicate any increase in activities of the Chinese Army on the Indian border.

Brahmos Missile

4394. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian and Russia have jointly developed the Brahmos missile;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.